

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06269 122239Z

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ACTION SAB-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /044 W

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O 122140Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5424

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

GOVERNOR PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6269

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER FROM BELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: U.S. NEGOTIATING
OFFER CLARIFIED.

I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 6 FROM THE NEGOTIATORS APPLICABLE TO
THE SEPTEMBER 1975 ROUND (SECOND STAGE).

II.

A. THE DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR-LEVEL TALKS SEPTEMBER 27-
OCTOBER 12 DESIGNED TO "CLARIFY" THE UNITED STATES OFFER
OF SEPTEMBER 5 WERE USEFUL.

B. ON POINT AFTER POINT, PANAMA HAD UNDERSTOOD NEITHER
THE LANGUAGE NOR THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE OFFER.

C. ON A NUMBER OF POINTS, BECAUSE OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING,
THE PANAMANIANS PERCEIVED--IN THEIR WORDS--"A MORE
POSITIVE UNITED STATES APPROACH THAN WE HAD IMAGINED".

D. ONE INDICATOR OF THEIR REACTION TO THE "CLARIFICA-
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 06269 122239Z

TION" PRESENTATION BY THE UNITED STATES TEAM WAS THEIR

STATEMENT THAT THEY "WISHED THE STUDENTS COULD HAVE HEARD IT".

III.

A. HOW WE PROCEED FROM HERE IS UNCLEAR. THE PRESENTATION THREW TORRIJOS' TREATY "TEAM" INTO SOME DISARRAY. OPINIONS ARE NOW DIVIDED ON HOW TO ASSESS, THEN RESPOND TO, OUR OFFER. POWER PLAYS ARE RESULTING.

B. PANAMA SURELY WILL GIVE US A COUNTEROFFER. BUT WE CANNOT NOW PREDICT ITS NATURE--THAT IS, WHETHER IT WILL SIMPLY REPEAT PAST POSITIONS OR INCORPORATE SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER THEM. NOR CAN WE PREDICT WHEN, WHERE AND BY WHOM IT WILL BE PRESENTED. WE HAVE ASSURED MEMBERS OF TORRIJOS' TEAM THAT THERE IS NO HURRY; THAT WE ARE AT THEIR DISPOSITION RESPECTING ARRANGEMENTS; AND THAT WE ARE ENTIRELY READY TO BEGIN THE BARGAINING.

C. THEY ARE ALL SCARED OF BARGAINING, OF COURSE, AND THAT INTENSIFIES THEIR DISARRAY.

D. IN ANY CASE, THE BALL IS NOW SQUARELY IN PANAMA'S COURT.
JORDEN

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